

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An array encoding system for processing high definition digital video data to generate an output data stream which is substantially consistent with the H.264 video communications standard, said array encoding system comprising:

at least one input for receiving a high definition digital video data stream,

a video analyzer for analyzing the complexity of the high definition digital video stream,

a stat mux controller capable of processing the at least one input,

a video splitter for splitting the high definition digital video stream into a plurality of subsidiary data streams in accordance with a predetermined criteria,

a plurality of ~~array~~ video encoders responsive to commands from the stat mux controller for processing ~~the high definition digital video data stream~~ each subsidiary data stream in accordance with an applicable encoding technique appropriate for encoding an H.264 compliant output, and

~~an output for providing processed high definition digital video data~~

a stream combiner for combining the plurality of processed subsidiary data streams.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The array encoding system of claim 1 wherein the system is scalable.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The array encoding system of claim 1 wherein the high definition digital video data stream includes audio data.

8. (Original) An array encoding method for processing high definition digital video data to generate an output data stream which is substantially consistent with the H.264 video communications standard comprising the steps of:

receiving a high definition digital video data stream,
analyzing the complexity of the data stream,
splitting the data stream into a plurality of subsidiary data streams in accordance with a predetermined criteria,
processing each subsidiary data stream in accordance with an applicable encoding technique appropriate for encoding an H.264 compliant output, and
combining the plurality of processed subsidiary data streams.

9. (Original) The array encoding method of claim 8 wherein the high definition digital video data stream includes audio information.

10. (Original) The array encoding method of claim 8 wherein the analyzing step includes extracting information relating to the complexity of the high definition digital video data stream.

11. (Original) The array encoding method of claim 10 wherein the complexity information includes at least one of the group comprising spatial complexity and temporal complexity.

12. (Original) The array encoding method of claim 8 wherein the predetermined criteria includes at least one of the group comprising spatial mode criteria and temporal mode criteria.

13. (Original) The array encoding method of claim 8 wherein the combining step includes appending applicable H.264 information.

14. (Original) The array encoding method of claim 8 further including the step of

adjusting bit rate information in accordance with the complexity of the high definition digital video data stream.

15. (Original) The array encoding method of claim 14 wherein the step of adjusting bit rate information includes controlling the encoding process and the combining process.

16. (New) The array encoding system of claim 1, wherein said video splitter divides the high definition digital video stream according to a selected division mode which includes at least one of the group comprising a spatial mode and a temporal mode.

17. (New) The array encoding system of claim 1, wherein the predetermined criteria includes at least one of the group comprising a spatial mode criteria and a temporal mode criteria.

18. (New) The array encoding system of claim 1, wherein said video analyzer extracts information relating to the complexity of the high definition digital video data stream.

19. (New) The array encoding system of claim 18, wherein the complexity information includes at least one of the group comprising spatial complexity and temporal complexity.

20. (New) The array encoding system of claim 1, wherein the stream combiner further appends applicable H.264 information to said processed subsidiary data streams.

21. (New) The array encoding system of claim 18, wherein bit rate information is adjusted in accordance with the complexity of the high definition digital video data stream.